

ing our sincere belief and best judgment as to what is demanded of you in the interests of the people as a whole, and we feel that you would be unresponsive to a plain public duty if you should decline to accept the nomination as the voluntary expression of the wishes of a majority of the republican voters of the United States, through the action of their delegates in the next national convention. Yours truly,

"WILLIAM E. GLASSCOCK,  
"CHESTER H. ALDRICH,  
"ROBERT P. BASS,  
"JOSEPH M. CAREY,  
"CHASE S. OSBORN,  
"W. R. STUBBS,  
"HERBERT S. HADLEY.

"The Honorable Theodore Roosevelt,  
"New York, N. Y."

Washington, Feb. 25.—Newspapers and the offices of Washington correspondents were besieged today and tonight with personal and telephone calls from politicians and statesmen asking what Colonel Roosevelt had to say.

In the list of anxious callers were several Roosevelt boomers who had recently called on the former president and to whom it was supposed advance information of his intentions had been given. It was evident that few were prepared for the crisp, unequivocal statement from the colonel that he was a candidate for the republican nomination.

President Taft was given a copy of his predecessor's letter, but he would make no comment. White house officials were reticent but they made no attempt to disguise their interest. The Taft campaign bureau was dark tonight. Director William B. McKinley having left Washington at noon for Chicago.

The only remark emanating from the president during the day that at all bore upon the tense political situation was made to a senator who asked that his name be not used. It was this:

"I know we are right and I am confident we will be successful."

It has been only in the last fortnight that President Taft has been willing to admit to his closest friends that he believed Colonel Roosevelt would enter the race against him for the nomination. It is doubtful whether up to the last minute he was fully convinced that any announcement coming from his predecessor would be without a string attached.

That President Taft was deeply hurt to know from now on he must engage in an open contest against the man under whom he had served for many years became known soon after the Roosevelt letter was made public. The relations between Colonel Roosevelt and Mr. Taft when the latter served as secretary of war were very close.

President Taft refused to believe that Colonel Roosevelt would oppose him for a renomination, and his conviction that the colonel would turn a deaf ear to all who urged that he become a candidate was known to all Mr. Taft's friends. These friends have pointed out that Secretary of War Stimson, who ran for governor of New York with Mr. Roosevelt as his most conspicuous backer, and also Secretary of the Navy Meyer, who was in the Roosevelt cabinet and one of his chief close counsellors, were in the Taft official family. It has been a matter of everyday comment that Secretaries Stimson and Meyer have been frequent visitors to Colonel Roosevelt's offices in New York or his home at Oyster Bay. These were accepted as proof that Taft and Roosevelt were not wholly estranged.

#### MR. BRYAN AT DENVER

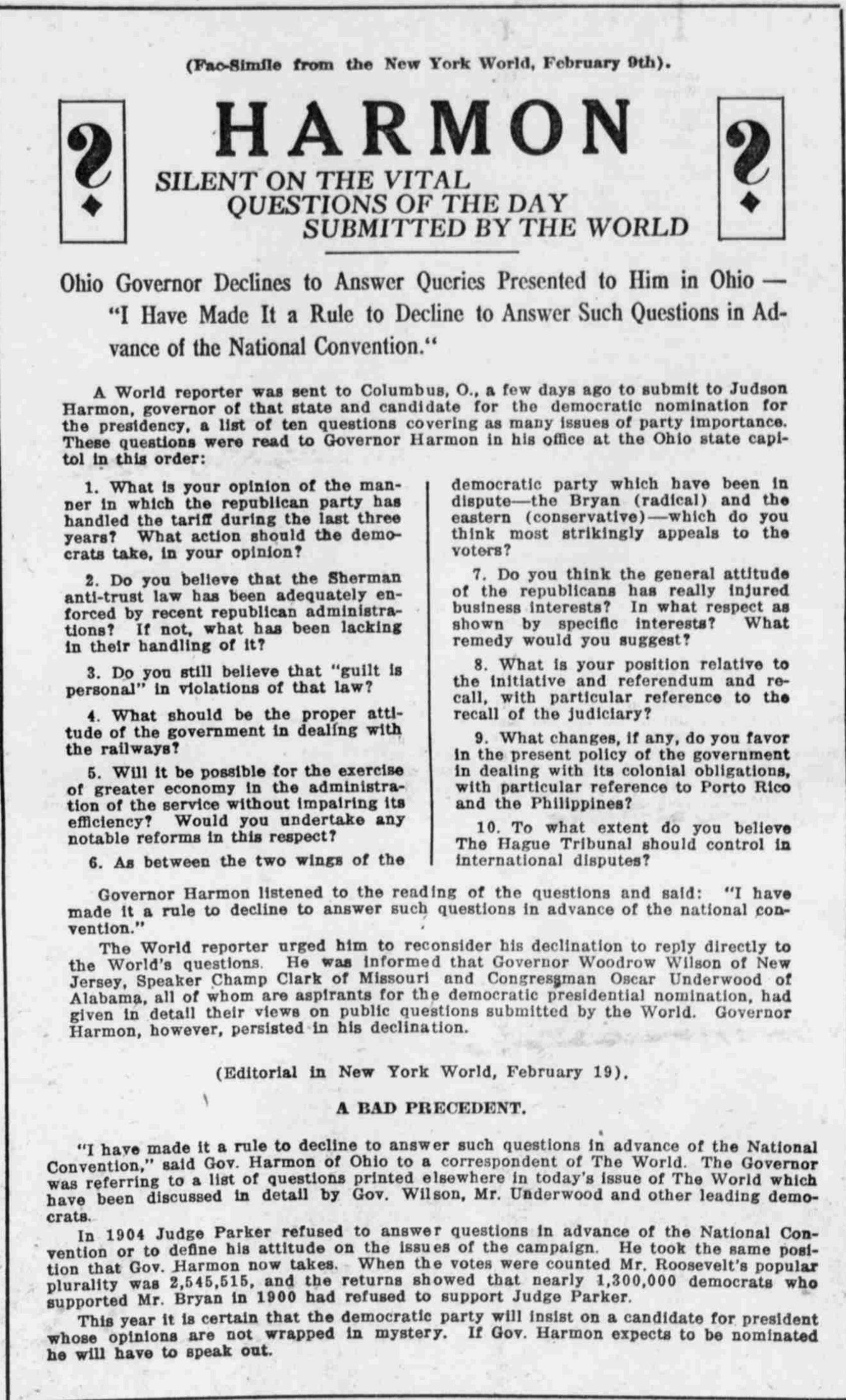
Mr. Bryan spoke in the hall of representatives in the state capital building at Denver, February 23rd. The meeting was presided over by Governor Shafroth. Mr. Bryan was introduced by former Governor Thomas. Following is an extract from the report of the Denver News:

Hurling forth with all the intensity of his wonderful oratory, the demand of the American people for reform measures, emphasizing repeatedly his backing of a progressive man for the presidency, tearing to shreds the records and the promises of Taft and Roosevelt, and flaying Governor Judson Harmon for his opposition to the initiative and referendum and other progressive measures, William Jennings Bryan enthralled a crowd that filled the house chamber in the state capitol for two hours last night.

At times holding spell-bound the audience with intense earnestness and then speaking with stinging sarcasm, Bryan rocked the great crowd as he never before has controlled a crowd in Denver, even with all the excitement and enthusiasm of a presidential campaign.

Bryan delivered an address on national questions filled with predictions of what present de-

(Fac-Simile from the New York World, February 9th).



## HARMON

### SILENT ON THE VITAL QUESTIONS OF THE DAY SUBMITTED BY THE WORLD

#### Ohio Governor Declines to Answer Queries Presented to Him in Ohio — "I Have Made It a Rule to Decline to Answer Such Questions in Advance of the National Convention."

A World reporter was sent to Columbus, O., a few days ago to submit to Judson Harmon, governor of that state and candidate for the democratic nomination for the presidency, a list of ten questions covering as many issues of party importance. These questions were read to Governor Harmon in his office at the Ohio state capitol in this order:

1. What is your opinion of the manner in which the republican party has handled the tariff during the last three years? What action should the democrats take, in your opinion?
2. Do you believe that the Sherman anti-trust law has been adequately enforced by recent republican administrations? If not, what has been lacking in their handling of it?
3. Do you still believe that "guilt is personal" in violations of that law?
4. What should be the proper attitude of the government in dealing with the railways?
5. Will it be possible for the exercise of greater economy in the administration of the service without impairing its efficiency? Would you undertake any notable reforms in this respect?
6. As between the two wings of the democratic party which have been in dispute—the Bryan (radical) and the eastern (conservative)—which do you think most strikingly appeals to the voters?
7. Do you think the general attitude of the republicans has really injured business interests? In what respect as shown by specific interests? What remedy would you suggest?
8. What is your position relative to the initiative and referendum and recall, with particular reference to the recall of the judiciary?
9. What changes, if any, do you favor in the present policy of the government in dealing with its colonial obligations, with particular reference to Porto Rico and the Philippines?
10. To what extent do you believe The Hague Tribunal should control in international disputes?

Governor Harmon listened to the reading of the questions and said: "I have made it a rule to decline to answer such questions in advance of the national convention."

The World reporter urged him to reconsider his declination to reply directly to the World's questions. He was informed that Governor Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey, Speaker Champ Clark of Missouri and Congressman Oscar Underwood of Alabama, all of whom are aspirants for the democratic presidential nomination, had given in detail their views on public questions submitted by the World. Governor Harmon, however, persisted in his declination.

(Editorial in New York World, February 19).

#### A BAD PRECEDENT.

"I have made it a rule to decline to answer such questions in advance of the National Convention," said Gov. Harmon of Ohio to a correspondent of The World. The Governor was referring to a list of questions printed elsewhere in today's issue of The World which have been discussed in detail by Gov. Wilson, Mr. Underwood and other leading democrats.

In 1904 Judge Parker refused to answer questions in advance of the National Convention or to define his attitude on the issues of the campaign. He took the same position that Gov. Harmon now takes. When the votes were counted Mr. Roosevelt's popular plurality was 2,545,515, and the returns showed that nearly 1,300,000 democrats who supported Mr. Bryan in 1900 had refused to support Judge Parker.

This year it is certain that the democratic party will insist on a candidate for president whose opinions are not wrapped in mystery. If Gov. Harmon expects to be nominated he will have to speak out.

mands will accomplish. He declared that there were times when he believed himself to be the strongest candidate and had accepted the nomination but he frankly said that he believed that he was not the strongest candidate now.

"But I will go out and fight for a progressive democrat with all the earnestness that I ever fought for myself," declared the great commoner.

There were several times during the speech when the crowd shouted its approval. One of these was when he exclaimed:

"There has not been a campaign in which I was a candidate that I would not have been elected but for the Money trust."

Again came this tremendous shout of ap-

proval, when, in speaking of Harmon, Bryan said:

"I am opposed to any man being our standard bearer who speaks for retreat and would fight from the rear."

WILL YOU JOIN IN THE EFFORT  
TO INCREASE THE COMMONER'S CIRCULATION FOR 1912?  
TAKE IT UP AT ONCE WITH YOUR NEIGHBOR.